

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 01386 261259Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----261305Z 054449 /41
P 261021Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2224

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1386

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, TO
SUBJECT: REPORTED ASSASSINATION PLOT ON PRESIDENT EYADEMA

1. AN OFTEN RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT WITHIN THE PAST WEEK A BOMB WAS REPORTEDLY PUT IN PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S CAR BY FOUR OF FIVE NONCOM MILITARY PLOTTERS. NORMALLY CAR IN QUESTION IS GUARDED 24 HOURS A DAY BY ONE OF THREE SOLDIERS. ONE OF THESE SOLDIERS WAS TAKEN OFF DUTY AND REPLACED BY ANOTHER MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LOYAL TO THE PLOTTERS AND WAS TO HAVE ENABLED THEM TO RIG THE CAR FOR BOMBING. ALLEGEDLY THE GUARD INFORMED THE AUTHORITIES OF THE PLOT. THE PLOTTERS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PRISON IN THE LAMA KARA AREA. IT IS OF INTEREST THAT THEY ARE IDENTIFIED AS YOUNG MEN WHO RECENTLY UNDERWENT MILITARY TRAINING IN FRANCE. RECENT ARRESTEES IN A PURPORTED MARXIST ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTING POLITICAL TRACTS WERE ORGANIZED OUT OF FRANCE.

2. PRESIDENT EYADEMA REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED TO GO EASY ON THESE PLOTTERS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE WAY IN WHICH HE HAS DEALT WITH THE SO-CALLED MARXIST GROUP. THAT IS TO SAY THE ARE TO BE QUESTIONED AND EVENTUALLY RELEASED. HIS RATIONALE IS SAID TO BE THAT THIS WILL FACILITATE THE COMING FORWARD OF MEMBERS OF FUTURE PLOTS. HE APPARENTLY

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BELIEVES THAT EXECUTING THE PLOTTERS WOULD BE BOTH A POLITICAL AND AN INTELLIGENCE MISTAKE. THE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT EYADEMA'S BROTHERS ARE APPEALING TO HIM TO PROCEED WITH EXECUTIONS IN ORDER TO TEACH OTHER POTENTIAL PLOTTERS A HARSH LESSON.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS TRIED TO CONFIRM THIS STORY

THROUGH OTHER SOURCES. NO CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED
TO DATE. HOWEVER, THE SOURCE (EMILE NASR, A LEBANESE
MERCHANT AND LONGTIME FRIEND OF EYADEMA) IS USUALLY VERY
WELL INFORMED.
PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, PRESIDENT, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME01386
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770188-0480
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From: LOME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770515/aaaaamqc.tel
Line Count: 67
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5e713289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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